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A

# Juſt Vindication

OF THE

## PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

OF HIS

# MAJESTIES

## Ordnance

From the falſe and ſcandalous Aſperſions laid upon them in a Printed Libel,

ENTITULED

*An Exact Relation of the ſeveral Engagements and Actions of His Majeſties Fleet, under the Command of his Highneſs Prince* Rupert, *in the Summers Expedition*, 1673.

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*LONDON*,

Printed for *Nathanael Brooke* (Stationer to His Majeſties Office of the Ordnance) at the *Angel* in *Cornhil*, near the *Royal Exchange*, 1674.

# Vindication

of the

Parliamentary Officers

of this

# Ordinance

in a Printed Libel,

Entituled

London.

# A VINDICATION OF THE Principal Officers OF HIS MAJESTIES Ordnance, &c.

THE Principal Officers of His Majesties Ordnance, having to the utmost of their Power, in both the *Dutch* Wars carried themselves with all Care and Industry in the Execution of their several Places, in furnishing His Majesties Fleets, and

Men of War with good, ſufficient and ſerviceable Gunners Stores, and fitted them with early Supplies, at all Times when required; for which they have had the thanks of his Royal Highneſs, of his Highneſs Prince *Rupert*, and his Grace the Duke of *Albemarle*, in the firſt War; and of his Royal Highneſs, and his Highneſs Prince *Rupert* in this laſt War: and although they have met with ſeveral Miſtakes of ſome Perſons who have reported the *Dutch* Guns and Powder to have been better and ſtronger than thoſe of His Majeſties, (who yet have acknowledged their Errours, when by Experience ſome of them have ſeen by Proof that His Majeſties Powder is ſtronger, and by $\frac{1}{7}$ better than the *Dutch*) they looked upon ſuch Reports as the Effects rather of miſinformation, than of malicious ſtander. But now finding Themſelves and their Actions blaſted and brought upon the Stage in a ſcandalous lying Pamphlet in Print, entitled, *an exact Relation of the ſeveral Engagements, &c. under the Command of Prince* Rupert; and perceiving how that Libel had already influenced ſeveral Perſons to their Prejudice; they have thought fit to manifeſt to All Perſons, Lovers of Honour and of Truth, in Defence of themſelves, and of the Right Honourable Sir *Thomas Chicheley* Knight, Maſter General of His Majeſties Ordnance (by whoſe Endeavours, Intereſt, and unſpotted Fidelity, His Majeſties Service in this Office hath ſo well proceeded) That at no time in any of theſe late Wars againſt the *Dutch*, His Majeſties Fleets were better provided with Canon, Powder, Shot, and all Ammunition, and Stores of War, than that ſet out this laſt Spring under his Highneſs Prince *Rupert*. To which may be added the other great Stores of War, *viz.* of Granadoes

Granadoes for Morterpieces and Hand, Fire Arms, Pikes, Powder, Shot, Scaling Ladders, Turnpikes, and many other chargeable Stores for Land Service, which by his Highneſs Particular Order, were provided and laden upon ſix great Ships under the Charge of *Jonas Moore* Eſquire, who attended upon the Prince, and was on Board with him in the two firſt Engagements. And at the laſt going out in *July* they provided (beſides the Supply of Gunners Stores for the whole Navy, with all its Tenders) all fitting Stores and Equipage for the Land Forces, and Train of Artillery then deſigned; that is to ſay, All manner of Arms, Offenſive and Defenſive, Ammunition of all ſorts, Horſes, Tents for 10000 Men, Habiliments of War of all kinds, and other Utenſils and Inſtruments, as well for Intrenchments as Surprizes, in caſe a Deſcent had been made either upon the Coaſt of *Holland*, or elſewhere. All which to the value of 40000 *l.* and upward, have been by them ſent out extraordinarily, and upon the Credit of the Office the laſt Summer, without one Penny advanced for the ſame.

This being in general premiſed; they come now to anſwer more particularly to ſuch unjuſt Accuſations, as this falſe and ſcandalous Libeller hath been pleaſed to lay upon them; which are theſe that follow.

The firſt, is in Page the Seventh; wherein he declares (to the Scandal and Infamy of the Stout Brave Seamen and Souldiers of this Nation) *How faint the Hearts of the whole Fleet were* (he meaſured certainly by his own) *for want of Workmen and Tools*

*Tools*, *Seamen*, *& Supplies*, and this before the Fleet engaged.

The Second is in Page the Twelfth, where, after the Second Engagement in *June*, he ſaith, *The Commanders exclaimed that they had not ſufficient Supplies, but were in Want of Powder, Shot, &c.*

The Third is in the laſt Page of this Libel, where he enumerates the Difficulties and the Wants the Fleet was in. Of which, *The fayler of Proviſions, and Want of Ammunition, and all other Neceſſaries* are reckoned as Part.

Theſe black and falſe Aſperſions can no way better (in few Lines) be cleared, than firſt by declaring,

1. What Ammunition and Stores were provided and ſent on Board the Fleet, from this Office before it went out.

2. What Supplies were made after the Engagements.

3. And laſtly, what Ammunition, Powder, Shot, *&c.* were remaining on Board the beginning of *September* laſt, when the Fleet returned, and a General Remain was taken by Order of the Office, as may appear by the Books and Gunners Accompts remaining in the ſaid Office.

And here they cannot but take Notice and declare that

that in the first *Dutch* War, forty Rounds (that is Powder and Shot to each Gun to be forty Times discharged) was as great a Proportion as the Ships could stow and take in. Some Ships indeed might take in more by reason of their Built, but those were but few.

This Rule will best be judged of by the Powder, not naming (for Brevities sake) the rest of the Stores.

Twelve thousand Barrels of Powder completed the Proportion of 40 Rounds to those 60 Sayl of Ships which were commanded by his Highness Prince *Rupert* this last Summer (many other of His Majesties Ships at the same time being elsewhere imployed:) which Proportion of 12000 Barrels with Shot and all other Stores answerable, the said Ships carried out with them in *May* last, and they had beside six Vessels attending them with much Powder and Shot, sent after as is before mentioned according to the Princes Order, than which a greater Proportion, or better, was never before sent. So that as to the first Accusation, there was no Reason that the Hearts of the whole Fleet should faint (as doubtless this Cowardly Libellers did.) And if Success had been answerable to their Supplies, this Apology had not needed.

At the Return of the Fleet to the *Buoy of the Nore*, which was the Eighth of *June*, the Officers by directions of the Master of the Ordnance had provided five thousand Barrels of Powder, with Shot and Ammunition proportionable, and the Tenth of *June* fixteen great Vessels loaden with the said Powder and Stores,

were at Anchor near the Fleet under the Charge of Sir *Jonas Moore*, Maſter Surveyor of his Majeſties Ordnance, and *Samuel Fortrey* Eſquire, Clerk of the Deliveries; where they found thoſe Ships ſent formerly along with Stores for Supply of the Fleet returned into the *Swale*, without having Delivered any Part or Parcel of their Proviſions.

The Fleet might have been ſupplied with Gunners Stores in a few Dayes, but many Ships were to be repaired, which the Officers and Commiſſioners of His Majeſty's Navy (whom this Libeller hath likewiſe moſt unjuſtly aſperſed) with all poſſible Induſtry and Expedition refitted within leſs than three Weeks time: So that by the firſt Week in *July*, the Fleet was ſupplied with 4100 Barrels of Powder, Shot, and other Stores anſwerable, making up with what they had remaining on Board the entire Complement of forty Rounds: Upon which the Fleet ſailed, and fourteen Store-Ships belonging to this Office attending thereon.

By this it appears how falſe his ſecond Scandal is, for that the Fleet had not ſpent little above One third of their Stores of War, *viz.* 4100, of 12000 Barrels. And none of the Commanders, except this Malicious Libeller, could exclaim for want of Powder and Shot.

At the Return of the Fleet in *Auguſt*; after the third and laſt Engagement, the Officers of the Ordnance ſent again another Supply of 5000 Barrels of Powder, and Stores proportionable; but that might have been ſpared, together with the great Charge of Freight and Demurrage; for

for the Fleet had ſpent little more than a ſixth Part of their Powder and Stores, *viz.* 2000, of 12000 Barrels, as by the Remains in the Office appears, there being above 9000 Barrels of Powder brought back in the Fleet, beſides the Stores ſent along, which likewiſe returned without any Diminution, clearly ſhewing his laſt Accuſation to be as falſe as any of the reſt; and it is as plain that in all the three Engagements, not much above half the Stores of War of the firſt Supply were expended.

To give one further ſatisfactory Inſtance touching the Expence of Powder, One Ship which was confeſſed by all to have been moſt engaged, will afford a clear Demonſtration, *viz.* the Royal Prince. Her firſt Complement was 430 Barrels, the Supply ſhe took in 176 Barrels, in all 606 Barrels. The Gunner brought back and delivered in *September* laſt 395 Barrels, with Stores anſwerable, to this Office, which makes the Expence ſomething above One third. Nay, the *Rupert*, which made moſt complaint, brought back with her two thirds of her Powder and Stores.

*Ab Uno, diſce Omnes*——

To conclude; by what hath been ſaid, no Perſon can have reaſon to believe this falſe Libeller, but on the contrary to acquit the Officers of the Ordnance, as having done their Duties, by timely furniſhing out, and fully reſupplying His Majeſty's Fleet this laſt Summer. And they cannot but with humble Thanks acknowledge the Honour which his Highneſs Prince *Rupert* hath done them, by often declaring as much, both publickly and otherwiſe.

FINIS.